THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI MOTI LAL VORA): (a) Till 15th October. 1988. 23 cages of AIDS have been reported. The numbe- of AIDS cases are Few to comment on any irentl of increase over a few months.

lb) Four AIDS cases have been reported) du. ing Ihe last 6 months.

'c) There is at the moment, no eviclene there rs an increase >n cases of ATDS in India. Of the 23 cases reported. 7 were foeigners; 12 Indians appeared to have acquired the infection abroad; only four cises appear to have acquired the infec-iiqn in Tndia.

Kd) The following measures are being talcen hy Government to prevent ATDS in th* country:—

it. A cell has been established in the Directorate Geneial of Health Services to coordinate AIDs Contiol activity in the conntry

1. 40 Surveillance Cent: es have been established in the country to screen high

All these centies have been provided wilh diagnostic reagents and equipment pabkage h ive also been provided to most of' them.

4. Restrictions have been imposed on imjport of blood and blood products with-oiijt AIDS clearance certificate.

'§. AH the State Health authorities'hos-pilals STD clinics have been alerted to be vigilant.

16. All the blood banks have been instructed to screen the professional blood j doners

|7 All the State Health Authoiities have been advised to ensure strict ste. ilisation practice in hospitals & clinics and to use pre-sterilised disposable syringes and need-lep as far as possible.

18. Guidelines have been sent t(, all the State Health Authoiities for Health c ire personnel.

9. All the mass media channels have been involved in educating ihe people on AIDS- its nature, transmission and prevention.

10. Foreigner:—

1. New foreign students being admitted in any of the Indian Institutions a e required to undeigo AIDS test. Any body found positive is repatriated to his counti v -3 II. Ii has been decided to screen for AIDS the foreigners intending t0 stay for more th Jn one year in India. Members of the diplomatic missions and foreign journalists accredited to the PIB are exempted from the lest at this stage. Anybody *foimA* positive is to be repatriated to his country.

Death;, due to Dengue Fc\er in Capita!

. 523. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Ministei of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aw ire that scores of people have died in the capital in recent weeks due to mysterious dengue fever;

iM whether the Doctors attending to Ihe dengue fever patients in various Hospitals in the capital arc not providing proper treatment etc;

(c) if so, ihe number of persons died in various Hospitals due to dengue fever during the last six months' and

(d) the responsibility Ried in snch cases by Gove-nment?

THE MINISTER OF HEAITH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI MOTf LAL VORA I: (a) to fd) As per information received, during September-October. 1988, 65 cases wilh 15 deaths due to Dengue Fe\er have been imported from various Yiospi(als in Delhi.

There is no specific treatment for dengue infection nor any vaccine developed \C(for prophylactic immunization and Ihe cases are treated with symptomatic

and by supportive treatment. However casas showing haemorrhagic manifestation are treated with intravenous fluid and plasma and blood transfusion indicated in ca^es of severe bleeding.

1'here is no report indicating doctois not giving proper treatment to the dengue patients admitted in the hospitals.

Exchanging of New-bom Babies in Hospitals

524. SHRl HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Ministe,- of HEAL TH AND FAMILY WELFARE be Pea sed to state:

(a) whether Government are aware t'hat the cases 0f new-born baby exchange in the Hospitals in tne capital are increasing;

(b) whether it is a fact that during the month of October, 1988, a case of ex change of new born baby has come to light from the Safdarjang Hospital, New Delhi;

(c) whether Government propose to fix responsibility in such cases; and

(d) ;f *so,* what steps Governrment propose to take against t'hose involved in such exchanges?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI MOTI LAL VORA): (a) to (d) The enquiry regarding the case of exchan:^ of baby in Safdarjang Hospital in October. 1988 is being conducted by the Additional Director General, Dr. A. K. Mukherjee, the report i; still awaited.

Newsitem captioned "Pollution in Space Hampers Vision"

525. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has be-"i drawn to the newsitem which appeared in 'The Tndian Express' dated the 17th October, 1988 under the caption "Pollunnn in space hampers vision";

(b) if so, whether accoiding to the International Astronomical Union, the Astionomers had been facing this form of pollution for the last few yeas; and

(c) what is t'ne reaction of Government in this legard and further steps prposed to be contemplated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRT K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It has been sported that occasionally, due to radio interference, space debris and in some cases even the outdoor lighting the ground-based and even space-based observations of the astronomy scientists tend to get distorted. This finding was also presented in a paper during the International Astronautical Federation Cong'ess held in Bangalore during October 8—15, 1988.

rx) For tne purpose of radio astronomy, specific frequency bands are reserved. It is also ensured t'hat these frequencies aie not used for any other purpose. There has been no addition to the problem of space debris due to Indian Space Programme.

Vacancies of J«d«es i„ Supreme Courtl H'gh Courts

526. SHRI D. B CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that several posts of judges are lying vacant in the Supreme Court and High Courts;

(b) if so, the detai1s of posts of judges lyinrz vacant and since when;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government is letha'gic in appointing judges in the Supreme Court and High Courts; and